

Amendments to the Claims:

1) (Currently Amended) A method for the production of rails and similar products with a rolling plant, wherein the plant comprises a reversible intermediate working station, the intermediate working station comprising a first, a second universal stand and a two-high edging stand placed between said first and second universal stands, and placed at such a distance from each other that said bar can be held simultaneously in all three of said stands during rolling operations, wherein the intermediate working station is able to receive a pre-rough rolled bar from an appropriate upstream rough rolling station and to deliver it, after having worked it, to a downstream finishing station, placed at such a distance from said intermediate working section that, when said finishing stand works a finishing passage on said bar, said bar is not held in any of the said first universal, two-high edging and second universal stands the method comprising, in the order indicated, the following operations:

performing a ~~second~~-first rolling passage in said two-high edging stand;

performing a first rolling passage in said second universal stand with a first reduction ratio comprised between 10% and 30%; and

performing a second rolling passage in said second universal stand with a reduction ratio comprised between around 10% and around 30%;

performing a second rolling passage in said two-high edging stand;

performing a first rolling passage in said first universal stand performed with a second reduction ratio comprised between 3% and 25%, wherein the first reduction ratio is greater than the second reduction ratio;

performing a second rolling passage in said first universal stand with a reduction ratio comprised between around 3% and around 20%;

performing a third rolling passage in said two-high edging stand;

performing a rolling passage in said finishing station.

2) (Cancelled)

3) (Cancelled)

4) (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said reduction ratio with which is performed said first rolling passage in said second universal stand is equal to around 20%, and said reduction ratio with which is performed said first rolling passage in said first universal stand is equal to around 10%.

5) (Cancelled)

6) (Cancelled)

7) (Cancelled)

8) (Cancelled)

9) (Cancelled)

10) (Cancelled)

11) (Cancelled)

12) (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 1, comprising a series of operations substantially constituted of the following rolling passages, in the sequence indicated:

said ~~second~~first rolling passage in said two-high edging stand on exiting from a pre-rough rolling station;

said first rolling passage in said second universal stand;

said second rolling passage in said second universal stand;

said ~~first~~second rolling passage in said two-high edging stand;

said first rolling passage in said first universal stand;

said second rolling passage in said first universal stand;

said third rolling passage in said two-high edging stand; and

a rolling passage in said finishing station.

13) (Cancelled)

14) (Cancelled)

15) (Cancelled)

16) (Cancelled)

17) (Cancelled)

18) (Cancelled)

19) (Cancelled)